

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A prosthesis for repair or to resist the formation of an abdominal wall hernia comprising at least an outer surface and an inner surface wherein the inner surface forms at least one channel through which, in use, partially receives and encloses an anatomical structure such that at least 30% of the circumference of the anatomical structure is surrounded by the prosthesis and the an anatomical structure may pass through the prosthesis when the prosthesis is in place in the body without substantial compression of said anatomical structure.
2. (Original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1 of width in the range 0.5 cm to 7 cm.
3. (Currently amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ of longitudinal length in the range 1 to 5 cm.
4. (Currently amended) The prosthesis as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the channel is of dimensions in the range 0.5 cm to 3 cm in width and depth.
5. (Currently amended) The prosthesis as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the inner surface defines a scalloped channel.
6. (Currently amended) The prosthesis as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the channel of the prosthesis is sized such that in use an anatomical structure may pass, when the prosthesis is in place in the body, the width of the anatomical structure being compressed less than 70%.

7. (Currently amended) The prosthesis as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein the prosthesis has a truncated conical shape.
8. (Original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 7 wherein the diameter of the truncated conical shaped prosthesis at the widest end of the prosthesis is in the range 0.5 cm to 7 cm and the diameter of the narrowest end is in the range 0.5 cm to 4 cm.
9. (Currently amended) The prosthesis as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein the prosthesis further comprises at least one flange which extends from the prosthesis.
10. (Currently amended) The prosthesis as claimed in any preceding claim 9 wherein the flange is a portion of synthetic mesh.
11. (Currently amended) Use of a prosthesis as claimed in any preceding claim 1 to repair or to resist the formation of an abdominal hernia.
12. (Currently amended) Use of a prosthesis as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10 claim 1 to repair or to resist the formation of an inguinal hernia, the channel being sized to receive a spermatic cord without substantial compression of the spermatic cord.
13. (Currently amended) Use of a prosthesis as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10 claim 1 to repair or to resist the formation of femoral hernia the channel being sized to receive a femoral vein.
14. (Currently amended) A kit including a prosthesis according to any one of claims 1 to 10 claim 1 and synthetic mesh to overlay the prosthesis.

15. (Currently amended) A method for treating hernia comprising the steps:
 - [[-]] exposing the hernia defect
 - [[-]] providing a prosthesis wholly in the extra peritoneal compartment of the abdominal wall to fill the defect but which provides a relatively pressure free passage of an anatomical structure past the prosthesis.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the method is for treatment of inguinal or femoral hernia.
17. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claims 15 or 16~~ claim 15 wherein the prosthesis provided to fill the defect is the prosthesis of ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1.